

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair should face steep fines and penalties for abuse of the free airwaves. If an organization is going to promote a political candidate they should not be able to do it over free airwaves. If a candidate such as President Bush wants to smear the name of their opponent they should have to pay for it, as they would for any advertisement.

America is losing the battle against these corporate giants, like Rupert Murdoch and Sinclair. The books 1984 and Fahrenheit 451 seem to more prophetic than fiction.

I surely hope the FCC will not stand by and let big corporate money to tint its judgement.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.